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Dkt: 450.224US1

Filing Date: January 5, 1998

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMINDING USERS OF UPCOMING SCHEDULED RECORDINGS

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling a data recording for the recording device occurs before receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the recording reminder signal comprises outputting a message to a network communications device associated with at least one user of the computerized system.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the reminder signal comprises outputting a message concerning the scheduled recording to a pager.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein outputting the reminder signal includes outputting a verbal message, a textual message, or an audible tone.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting a reminder signal includes outputting a message concerning recording media.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling the data recording includes communicating a recording instruction to the computerized system, and wherein the method further comprises calculating and storing the recording reminder time based on at least the user input and at least a portion of the recording instruction before outputting the reminder signal.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the recording instruction includes a channel identifier, a start time, and an end time.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting a reminder signal at the predetermined time before the time of the data recording includes:
comparing a system time to the recording reminder time.
11. (Amended) A computerized entertainment system comprising:
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a receiver for receiving one or more channel signals, each carrying one or more programs;
a recording device, coupled to the receiver, for automatic recording one of the programs;
means for scheduling the recording device to begin automatic recording of the one program at a recording time;
means for receiving user input regarding a recording reminder, with the user input being non-determinative of the recording time;
means for determining a recording reminder time for at least the one program based on the recording time and the user input regarding the recording reminder;
an output device for outputting a reminder signal at the recording reminder time before the recording device initiates automatic recording of the one program; and
means for causing the recording device to begin automatic recording of the one program independently of the determined recording reminder time.

12. The computerized entertainment system of claim 11, wherein the output device includes means for outputting the recording reminder signal as a message to a network communications device associated with at least one user of the computerized system.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein the output device comprises a computer and a display.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein the reminder signal includes a verbal message, a visible message, or an audible tone.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein the reminder signal includes a message concerning recording media.

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17. (Amended) A computer comprising reminder-generation software, the reminder-generation software comprising instructions for:

receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time for a scheduled automatic data recording and non-determinative of a time for initiating

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the scheduled data recording, with the recording reminder time preceding a time of the scheduled automatic data recording by an amount of time based on the user input; and
outputting a reminder signal at the recording reminder time before initiation of the scheduled automatic data recording.

20. The computer of claim 17, wherein the reminder-generation software instructions include instructions for including a message concerning recording media as part of the reminder signal.

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21. (Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for:
scheduling a read-write data storage device to automatically record data at a future time;
and
receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time and non-determinative of a time for initiation of the automatic recording, with the recording reminder time preceding the future time by an amount of time based on the user input; and
outputting a recording reminder signal at the recording reminder time before the read-write data storage initiates automatic recording of the data.

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24. (Amended) A method of operating a computerized system having a recording device for automatically recording data during two or more scheduled recordings, the method comprising:

receiving two or more user remind-time inputs, with each user input associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and each user input non-determinative of a time for initiation of an automatic recording and with at least two of the user remind-time inputs differing from each other; and
defining two or more recording reminder times, with each of the recording reminder times associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and based at least partially on the associated user remind-time input and with each of the recording

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cont

reminder times preceding a respective time for initiation of its associated scheduled recording by amounts of time based on the respective remind-time inputs.

26.

The method of claim 1, further comprising:

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determining the recording reminder time based on the received user input, with the recording reminder time preceding the recording time for the scheduled recording by an amount of time based on the received user input.

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CLEAN VERSION OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Previously Once Amended) A method of operating a computerized system having a recording device for automatically recording data, the method comprising:
scheduling a data recording for the recording device, with the data recording to begin at a recording time;
receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time for the scheduled data recording, with the user input being non-determinative of the recording time; and
outputting a recording reminder signal at a time based on the recording reminder time, before the recording device initiates automatic execution of the scheduled data recording.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling a data recording for the recording device occurs before receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the recording reminder signal comprises outputting a message to a network communications device associated with at least one user of the computerized system.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the reminder signal comprises outputting a message concerning the scheduled recording to a pager.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein outputting the reminder signal includes outputting a verbal message, a textual message, or an audible tone.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting a reminder signal includes outputting a message concerning recording media.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling the data recording includes communicating a recording instruction to the computerized system, and wherein the method further comprises calculating and storing the recording reminder time based on at least the user input and at least a portion of the recording instruction before outputting the reminder signal.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the recording instruction includes a channel identifier, a start time, and an end time.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting a reminder signal at the predetermined time before the time of the data recording includes:
comparing a system time to the recording reminder time.
11. (Amended) A computerized entertainment system comprising:
a receiver for receiving one or more channel signals, each carrying one or more programs;

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a recording device, coupled to the receiver, for automatic recording one of the programs;
means for scheduling the recording device to begin automatic recording of the one program at a recording time;
means for receiving user input regarding a recording reminder, with the user input being non-determinative of the recording time;
means for determining a recording reminder time for at least the one program based on the recording time and the user input regarding the recording reminder;
an output device for outputting a reminder signal at the recording reminder time before the recording device initiates automatic recording of the one program; and
means for causing the recording device to begin automatic recording of the one program independently of the determined recording reminder time.

12. The computerized entertainment system of claim 11, wherein the output device includes means for outputting the recording reminder signal as a message to a network communications device associated with at least one user of the computerized system.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein the output device comprises a computer and a display.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein the reminder signal includes a verbal message, a visible message, or an audible tone.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein the reminder signal includes a message concerning recording media.

17. (Amended) A computer comprising reminder-generation software, the reminder-generation software comprising instructions for:

receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time for a scheduled automatic data recording and non-determinative of a time for initiating the scheduled data recording, with the recording reminder time preceding a time of the scheduled automatic data recording by an amount of time based on the user input; and
outputting a reminder signal at the recording reminder time before initiation of the scheduled automatic data recording.

20. The computer of claim 17, wherein the reminder-generation software instructions include instructions for including a message concerning recording media as part of the reminder signal.

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21. (Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for:
scheduling a read-write data storage device to automatically record data at a future time;
and
receiving user input at least partially determinative of a recording reminder time and non-determinative of a time for initiation of the automatic recording, with the recording reminder time preceding the future time by an amount of time based on the user input; and
outputting a recording reminder signal at the recording reminder time before the read-write data storage initiates automatic recording of the data.
24. (Amended) A method of operating a computerized system having a recording device for automatically recording data during two or more scheduled recordings, the method comprising:
receiving two or more user remind-time inputs, with each user input associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and each user input non-determinative of a time for initiation of an automatic recording and with at least two of the user remind-time inputs differing from each other; and
defining two or more recording reminder times, with each of the recording reminder times associated with at least one of the scheduled recordings and based at least partially on the associated user remind-time input and with each of the recording reminder times preceding a respective time for initiation of its associated scheduled recording by amounts of time based on the respective remind-time inputs.
26. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the recording reminder time based on the received user input, with the recording reminder time preceding the recording time for the scheduled recording by an amount of time based on the received user input.